

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GRAY DAVIS, Governor

## DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

WILLIAM (BILL) J. LYONS, JR., Secretary

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September 8, 1999

Ms. Mary Nichols  
Secretary  
Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Nichols:

RE: Cumulative agricultural impacts and mitigation and agricultural land preservation under CALFED

I enjoyed having lunch with you and Patrick this week to discuss issues of mutual interest.

I understand that CALFED is proposing actions to address the issues of cumulative agricultural impacts and mitigation and agricultural land preservation. It was reported that these issues were presented and discussed separately and that separate actions were proposed to address them. The proposed action to address cumulative impacts was that CALFED and attorneys will draft framework and work through DFG, USFWS and NMFS. The proposed action concerning agricultural land preservation was to set up a meeting with CALFED, Resources Agency, CDFA and agricultural stakeholders.

I must emphasize the importance of these issues to CDFA and the agricultural community. It is imperative that CDFA attorneys be included in any and all CALFED and CALFED agency actions that address these issues, including drafting framework. CDFA attorneys working in close cooperation with attorneys from DFG, DWR, Resources Agency and the Attorney General's Office were instrumental in crafting the initial policy language (page 38 of the Revised Phase II Report), attached for your reference.

The issues of cumulative agricultural impacts and agricultural land preservation are inextricably linked. It is important that the processes to resolve these issues also be well integrated. The CDFA and the agricultural community must be a part of that integrated process.

It is in the best interest of CALFED and both of our agencies that CDFA play a strong role in resolving these issues. I view the development of a draft framework and meeting with affected stakeholders as key next steps. Both must include CDFA. Mary, again thank you for your time and effort concerning these most important issues.

Sincerely,

William (Bill) J. Lyons, Jr.  
Secretary

Attachment

copy: Lester Snow, CALFED

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